(b) if so, whether the prices of LPG cylinders would also be reduced to some extent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the LPG consumers throughout the country are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies floated the tenders individually for procurement of cylinders for the calendar year 2001.

It is expected that the price of procurement of cylinders will come down. However the cylinder manufacturers have challenged the tendering procedure in various Courts and the matter is pending for disposal. As the matter is *sub-judice*, it is not possible to ascertain the extent of reduction in the price, at this stage.

Oil reserves of ONGC

2568. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether ONGC has formulated a strategy to double its oil and gas reserves in the next few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) existing position of oil and gas reserves in the country; and

(d) whether ONGC would take help of any developed country in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Short and Medium-Long term Exploration and Production strategy of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) being formulated envisages establishing in a high case scenario, 6-7 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (O+OEG) over and above 6.029 billion tonnes of O+OEG of its initial hydrocarbon inplace.

The exploration strategy of ONGC being formulated has been phased into Short term covering the 10th Five Year Plan and Medium-Long term, covering

2007 to 2020, with the corresponding exploration programme and the expectations of inplace hydrocarbon establishment which is to be monitored periodically for required course corrections.

In order to have such a level of inplace hydrocarbon base, it is planned to step up the deep water exploration and spread ONGC's activities into non-producing, poorly explored and 'yet to be explored' basins, besides continuing intensive exploration in the producing basins.

(c) The position of initial inplace quantity of hydrocarbons in the country is provisionally 7.02 billion tonnes of O+OEG as on 1.4.2001.

(d) While ONGC has been adapting and absorbing the technological advancements it also outsources its requirements depending on needs. In order to venture into the technology intensive area of deep water exploration and production, permission has been accorded to ONGC to form strategic alliances with reputed multinational Exploration and Production (E & P) companies.

Recommendations of Bhurelal Committee

2569. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for the use of low sulphur diesel or clean fuels by the vehicles as alternative to the CNG is fast increasing;

(b) whether the recommendations of Bhurelal Committee set up for alternative to CNG have since been received; and

(c) if so, what are its findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Demand for the use of low sulphur diesel of 0.05% maximum sulphur content in NCT have been made by many transport organizations, namely Indian Tourist Transporters Association, Delhi Contract Bus Association, DTC, DTC Private Bus Operators Welfare Association, Indian Association of Tour Operators in their representation to the Bhurelal Committee.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of Bhurelal Committee concerning Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are given in the Statement.